

Dues Proposal

At its March 11 meeting, the Va'ad approved a revised dues structure for membership in our congregation. We discussed in detail the many ideas sent to us in letters, e-mail and telephone conversations over the past two months, and reviewed the comments voiced at the February 25 open discussion. All positions were considered, including concerns for the lower-income members, the discretionary disbursements of the high-income earner, and the need for maximizing efforts to reduce costs, among other things.

Reflecting the large input from the congregation, the Va'ad has approved the following revised policy, which will be presented for your approval at the May 19 Congregational Meeting.

For individual members whose annual gross income is below \$20,000, the dues rate will be 1.3%. For individual members whose annual gross income is above \$20,000, the dues rate will be 1.5%.

For family membership where the combined household income is below \$30,000, the dues rate will be 1.3%. For family membership where the combined household income is above \$30,000, the dues rate will be 1.5%.

We will also be encouraging members to increase their dues rates voluntarily, in order that we can continue to provide for our financial security and be better able to provide a religious center and programs for all, regardless of ability to pay. This is the mitzvah of tzedakah.

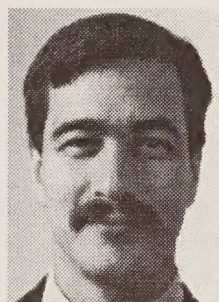
Thank you all for your input and help throughout the two years of the discussion. We urge your support and welcome further comments addressed to David Stein at the synagogue office or via e-mail [david.stein@internetMCI.com].

Save the Date
Sunday, May 19
Congregational
Annual Meeting

Rabbi's column

Kosher for Passover

There are two different, complementary biblical instructions which have shaped the laws and customs of Passover kashrut. There is an affirmative instruction: eat matzah! And there is a negative instruction: do not eat leavened foods! Repeated more than once in the Torah, these two instructions first appear in Exodus 12:15: "Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread; on the very first day, you shall remove leaven from your houses..." For centuries, Jews have strived to fulfill the letter and the spirit of these instructions. In this column, I will answer some questions that come up every year about how we can fulfill these mitzvot in our own lives today.



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Is Passover seven days or eight days?

In the Torah, Passover lasts a week. More than 2,000 years ago, there was confusion about the accuracy of the calendar and Jews outside the land of Israel began to observe an additional day of the festival, in case they were off by a day. Long after the accuracy of the calendar had been established, many customs surrounded the observance of eight days and the tradition remained. Who can resist two Seders? If you are going to continue the custom of two Seders (how else can one get enough charoset!) then one ought to keep Passover for eight days.

What foods are chametz? In the Talmud, chametz refers to five species of grain: wheat, barley, spelt, rye and oats. (I don't know what spelt is either!) To these Ashkenazi rabbis added rice, millet, corn and legumes, on the principle

Continued on page 7

Passover Yizkor

There will be a special Yizkor service during the Passover holiday on Saturday, April 6, at 4 pm in the sanctuary.

In Honor of Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Renewing the Old, Sanctifying the New

With deep appreciation and love, Sha'ar Zahav celebrates the rabbinate of Yoel Kahn on Friday, May 17, with a Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 8:15 pm at Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California St. Services will be lead by Rabbi Kahn. Derash will be by Rabbi Leslie Bergson, chaplain of the Claremont Colleges. Original music composed for the occasion by Jonathan Comisar, Jose Luis Moscovich and Dev Felder-Noily will be performed.

The celebration will continue the following day with a Shabbat service at Sherith Israel at 10:30 am. Derash will be by Rabbi Lisa Edwards of Congregation Beth Chaim Chadashim in Los Angeles.

The service will be followed by a box lunch at 12:30 pm. There will be a minimal charge and reservations are requested. Between 1:30 and 4:30 pm, a study session will ensue at Sherith Israel, with panel discussions, break-out groups, and summary groups on the theme of Renewing the Old and Sanctifying the New: Reclaiming Our Traditions and Making Them Our Own.

At 7 pm, a no-host dinner in honor of Rabbi Kahn will be held at a restaurant yet to be chosen. Reservations will be required. A commemorative publication of a selection of Rabbi Kahn's sermons will be published and distributed to all members and to all present at the Shabbaton. This publication will be edited by our member Ellen Lewin.

A formal invitation will be sent to all our members and friends in April.

Have Shabbat Dinner With Friends

Women members are cordially invited to join us for a catered Shabbat dinner preceding the Women's service on Friday, April 19 at 6:30 pm in the library. The dinner is limited to 20 women and costs \$10 a person. Please call Dana in the synagogue office to make a reservation by Monday, April 15.

Initial Public Offering

As I write this, Alex and I look forward to March 25. On that day, we hope to join many other domestic partners in San Francisco to have our relationship publicly confirmed in a group ceremony presided over by Mayor Willie Brown and Supervisor Carole Migden, a member of our congregation. The City of San Francisco is doing everything it can to recognize the legitimacy of the union of same-sex couples. And our congregation has been doing so since its inception, almost 20 years ago.



David Stein

Long before it became the core political issue for the gay/lesbian civil rights movement, a union ceremony was the quiet source of pride in many gay/lesbian religious groups across the country. Recognizing anniversaries has always been a touchstone of CSZ's life cycle celebrations. Early on, the anniversary was a commemoration of the date when "he moved in" or the first time "she admitted she loved me." Many of our members have chosen to celebrate their partnership by holding a kiddushin, so anniversaries now have a more formal commemorative date.

Rabbi Kahn has been an inspiring light for us and for other synagogues and religious groups in the creation of new liturgy for kiddushin. He has taught other rabbis and spiritual leaders of other faiths that the introduction of this life cycle ceremony not only brings the couple closer together but the congregation closer to the couple. In addition, I have heard many wonderful stories about how families reunite when they join in celebrating the union of two men or two women.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, in his final address at the Biennial Convention in Atlanta, called upon rabbis and congregations to encourage consecrating the unions of same-sex couples. At the CCAR biennial in Philadelphia this month, Reform rabbis will discuss and hopefully declare that it is a mitzvah and a source of spiritual awakening for rabbis to celebrate kiddushin, sacred

unions of same-sex couples.

There is even talk among some people of holding a publicly attended same-sex kiddushin at the next UAHC Northern California regional biennial. Alex and I would very much like to be that couple. Certainly, after living together more than 21 years, we feel secure in our joint identity and now recognize our need to make a public statement of our union.

But let's name what we really are working for: full public recognition with all rights, responsibilities and privileges which result from the religious or civil marriage ceremony of same-sex couples. Nothing less. Kiddushin: fine. Union ceremony: OK, but not quite. Public acknowledgment ceremonies such as what San Francisco is offering: a good, necessary and beneficial political move. But all of these are only stepping stones towards the legitimacy of our rights to form same-sex unions and have them blessed in religious ceremonies and acknowledged by the state.

It is a mark of the progressiveness of

our synagogue and of the UAHC that recognition within the confines of the Reform movement is within reach. In fact, in a forthcoming issue of *Reform Judaism* several articles are being devoted to just this issue.

The pride that comes with being a member of Sha'ar Zahav has as one of its sources, the awareness that we are continuing in our pioneering civil and religious rights traditions. We have spearheaded the drive for full rights for gay and lesbian rabbis, cantors, educators and administrators in all Reform congregations. We have initiated the liturgical development of many gay and lesbian life cycle ceremonies and continue to develop a unique religious school curriculum for the children of our members. And now we find ourselves the model for another drive for full rights, this time of marriage.

Na'aseh V'nishma—we hear and we shall do. We at CSZ continue to hear calls for recognition and action, and we shall do whatever it takes to work toward the full, legitimate recognition of our right to marry.

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Potluck

A potluck dinner for new members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will be held Sunday, April 14, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Hosted by CSZ President David Stein and Alex Ingersoll, the dinner will be in their condominium complex's community room, which is located at 345 Church Street, between 15th and 16th Streets.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn and the Membership Committee, who are co-sponsoring the event, said all members of the congregation are welcome.

"Whether you are a recent new member or a seasoned participant, come meet other members and find out how to become more involved in synagogue life," the rabbi said.

If your birthday falls in winter (December-February), please bring a main dish. If your birthday falls in spring (March-May), please bring a salad. If your birthday falls in summer (June-August), please bring a dessert. And if your birthday falls in autumn (September-November), please bring a beverage.

For more information and to RSVP, please call Sara Haber (621-1248).

Judaism and Healing

Ruach Ami: Bay Area Jewish Healing Center will present a day-long conference on Judaism and Healing for health care professionals throughout the Bay Area on Sunday, April 21.

The conference will include lectures and workshops on Jewish views of health and healing, a multi-disciplinary panel of professionals talking about how they care for themselves in the midst of their work, a wide array of workshops, and a closing healing service. Presenters will include rabbis, chaplains, physicians, nurses, and mental health professionals, conveying an integrated multi-disciplinary view of the healing process.

Ruach Ami is devoted to the care of Jews living with illness, dying, and loss. At this conference, Jewish health care professionals will learn more about Jewish teachings on health and illness, and about caring for ourselves and each other.

Health care professionals of all disciplines are welcome. For more information and conference brochures, please call Ruach Ami: Bay Area Jewish Healing Center (750-4197).

Pesach: What Do We Mean by Redemption?

By Nina Wouk for the Ritual Committee

This year Pesach and Easter arrive together, two different holidays that concern themselves with redemption, yet each gives the word a unique meaning. Many modern Jews are more familiar with the Christian definition than the Jewish one. Christians believe in redemption from an abstraction—inborn sin—through divine grace; the Jewish idea of redemption is, in contrast, concrete and active. Some of the Torah's oldest laws and stories illustrate redemption's shades of meaning, which are themes of all Jewish holidays.

Redemption is both a gift and an obligation, a continuing fact and a future promise. It exists when people accept responsibility for themselves and each other. The original redeemer, *go'el* in Hebrew, was one obligated by family relationship. If a family member was forced by poverty to sell land, the *go'el* would buy it back. If family members were reduced to selling themselves into slavery, the *go'el* had to buy them free. If a man died without children, his surviving brother, if any, had to marry the widow and raise the children who were legally heirs of the deceased, thus redeeming the family from dying out. If a family member was killed, the *go'el's* obligations included "redeeming the blood"—killing the killer. Redemption was a basic social obligation in a society where family was the only institution.

To our ancestors, redemption meant a set of acts which implied a set of principles: redeeming pledges, keeping promises; restoring equity, bringing freedom to enslaved and justice to the oppressed; accepting difficult obligations in return for being able to count on others. It meant bringing back family land, or branches of the family that might otherwise be lost—assurance of stability, restoration and wholeness.

The Jewish national founding myth exemplifies all of these meanings. On Pesach we celebrate God's redemption of the Israelites from Egypt. The Eternal keeps a promise made to Abraham, frees an oppressed nation, accepts responsibility for the future, and laboriously restores them to a natural state of self-sufficiency.

But redemption involves mutual responsibility. Thus, the Holy One requires the people to act as well. Before being

freed, the slaves have to sacrifice a lamb and paint its blood around the doors of their houses. This act has many symbolic meanings. It is a way for the people to show trust in their future survival, believing that the blood will keep the angel of death from their doors. It is a way to make sure that Israel's national birth echoes the physical birth of a human being, who emerges into the world through blood. But most important, it is a way of making slaves act like free people by taking disciplined action on their own.

The family obligations of the *go'el* ensured stability and survival in ancient Israelite society. On the very night of the exodus, the Pesach offering set up a pattern of mutual obligation between the people and the Creator. The family duties of the *go'el* have little if any place in modern society. However, the principles of disciplined action and mutual responsibility have an eternal function that nothing else can replace.

Judaism doesn't require us to believe in divine intervention in history. It does require us to live in terms of redemption: the keeping of promises, the righting of wrongs, the restoration of wholeness. Whether or not we expect the personal help of a personified God, the myth of Pesach teaches us what contribution we must make to redemption. We have to act, as individuals and as part of a group. We have to believe in, and take risks for, a future that often seems doubtful. This is what the Source of Life asked of our ancestors on the occasion of their redemption. And the Eternal's demands, as the Torah and prayers constantly remind us, are everlasting.

Friends of Larry Wexler

Many of you know that Larry Wexler had surgery on March 14 and will be recuperating at home until about May 10, after which he expects to be well enough to return to work. All of his congregational family will be praying for his uneventful and full recovery. If you want to visit Larry during his convalescence, please call before making the trek to Alameda, so that he can space his visitors.

Purim '96

We would like to thank the following people for helping make the Purim Party a beautiful, yummy, silly celebration: Greta Miskatel, Debbie Gelber, Eloise Magenheim, Ellie Cohen, Sara Haber, Steve Diller, Pekka Hall, Gabriel Vega, Kenny Altman, Paul Hart, Allan Giannini and countless others.

Thanks to Steve Polsky, who donated an hour massage, Firefly Restaurant, which donated a \$50 gift certificate, A Different Light for donating a \$30 gift certificate. The winners of the rapping contest were Joe Hample, Beth Silverman and Sheryl Dickey. Pekka Hall, Carrie Costello and Nina, Greer Hauptman and Aaron Buchbinder were winners in the costume contest. Lisa Hanckel and Rebecca Doctors-Cohen received the award for the best hamen-taschen.



Purim party photo by Michael Bettinger.

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Anniversaries

- 10 Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz
- 13 Jane Boskoff Graeven & Mark Graeven
- 14 Rachel Bernstein & Susan Mizner
- 21 Rena Frantz & Ora Prochovnick
- 22 David Israels & William Salit
- 29 Colette Patt & Jennifer Lorvick

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Joe Hample's Prize Winning Purim Rap

I hope you like rap, not rock or heavy metal.

I come to say shalom, and my name is Joe Shtetl.

You in da house for Purim and you wanna get your kicks,

But scuse me a second while I speak of politics.

It's election year and that's why I been sent.

I come here to say I wanna be your president.

Now da way that I look, you might think it kinda weird, But rememba Abe Lincoln, he also had a beard.

Not to dis my rivals, and I ain't took a poll,

But I bet y'all prefer me to ole Bob Dole.

As for Big Willie Clinton, well I hates to be rude,

But it don't seem to me like he reads the Talmud.

Gotta balance that budget, but no matta how they mob us, We ain't gonna cut no welfare on shabbes.

As for pork in the army, it's wrong, you knows it well.

When it comes to eatin' pork, it's don't ask, don't tell.

So do da right thing and vote widdout fail.

Rememba my name, and Shema Yisroeil.

Go for da best cuz you don't gotta settle

For nobody else but M.C. Joe Shtetl.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, 861-6932. E-mail: ShaarZahav@aol.com. To request permission to reprint material, call Robin Leonard (386-7876).

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

April 1996/Volume 19, Issue 8

Tot Shabbat

Our next Tot Shabbat will be on Friday, April 26 at 7 pm in the Oneg room. Celebrate Shabbat with songs, stories, and snacks. Please call Dana in the office if you are interested in leading activities for the evening.

Yizkor Elohim

Leland Vogel

Aug. 16, 1938–Feb. 23, 1996

Lee devoted his adult life to the building of a sanctuary, a safe harbor and a nurturing environment, where everyone was welcomed and could be comfortable. The special benefactors of this harbor were his children, Jeff and Sarah, who launched many ventures as children and as young adults from the nurturing and supportive embrace their father provided.

In his children's words, Lee was oblivious to class, background, race or other external circumstances. He was the quintessential non-judgmental listener, gifted with a bottomless well of patience.

Lee started out in the theater, doing lighting design, and he had a lifelong love for the arts. From his start in theatrical lighting, he moved to a long career in sales. He was a long time member of CSZ and took great pleasure and pride in his participation in services and other synagogue programs.

Lee was easy to be with and a loyal family member and friend. In addition to his beloved children, he was cared for by his sister, Beryl, and by a circle of friends and care-providers. He will be especially missed by Robert and by his many friends in the congregation and the community.

May the memory of this righteous man be for a blessing.

Va'ad Minutes

There were no Va'ad Minutes in last month's *Forward*. The Va'ad meets the evening of the editing deadline, and the recorder was not able to write up the minutes before the editorial meeting, so the decision was made to publish minutes one month behind for the time being.

In February, the Va'ad approved funding to hire a part-time interim rabbi for the period between Rabbi Kahn's departure and the installation of a new full-time rabbi. The Va'ad continued discussion of a new dues policy and results of that discussion at the March meeting are presented on page 1. Funding was also approved for Rabbi Kahn's Shabbaton. The long-awaited new Haggadah will be used at this year's Congregational Seder. A new CSZ publication called "A House in Order" is in the process of final preparation and will be available soon. Look for information about it within the next few months.

HIV + Support Group

CSZ has ongoing support services for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners. Mark your calendars:

Saturday, April 20 from 3-5 pm: Support group with Rabbi Kahn at CSZ. Join us for schmoozing, noshing, and prayer.

Saturday, May 11 at 3 pm: Support Group at CSZ, followed by a catered dinner at 5:30 pm.

Saturday, June 15 from 3-5 pm: Support Group at CSZ.

If you would like to RSVP, would like to put your name on our confidential mailing list, or have any questions, please call Amy or Rabbi Kahn at the office (861-6932).

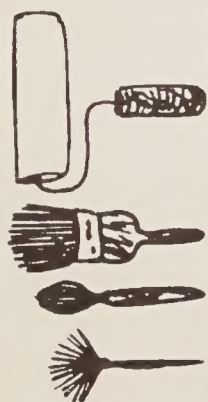
Danielle Billinkoff Bat Mitzvah

Danielle Billinkoff will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on Shabbat morning, April 13. The service begins at 10 am and will be followed by an Oneg Shabbat. All members of the congregation are invited.

Danielle, the daughter of Batya Billinkoff, is an unusually mature 8th grader at James Lick Middle School in San Francisco. Math and English are her favorite subjects.

She sees her Bat Mitzvah as a step toward becoming an adult and taking on added responsibilities, but along with the hard work of preparation she has had fun. She indicated that Rose Katz had been "a really good tutor" who helped make the steep path a little easier. Perhaps the difficulties were also lessened by her love of reading, by the energy gained from her gymnastics practice, and by her ability to hang out and have fun with friends when she is not hard at work.

Mazel tov to Danielle and her mother from the entire CSZ family.



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Mr. & Mrs. Harold Berg, in memory of Lee Vogel.
Mark Mackler, in honor of Paul Fishman and Michael Kurokawa's new home.
Neil Hart, in memory of Joel Lauden.
Neil Hart, in memory of Victor Brumbach.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Michele Sullivan, in memory of Marion LeMeteyer.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein, in honor of Carolyn Pines' new position as Executive Director of Congregation Beth Shalom.
Alex Ingersoll and David Stein, in honor of Jonathan Comisar's acceptance to the School of Sacred Music.

Children's Education Fund

Ron Lezell, in memory of Lee Vogel.
Alex Ingersoll and David Stein, in honor of Rina's arrival to the home of Alice Prussin and Smokey Cormier.

Fund for the House in Order Manual, in memory of Allen Harris

David Gary
Michael Yanofsky
Mildred Green
Donald Abrams
Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman
Eli Weinstein
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Stephanie Hannaford and Chris Witzel
Florence and Steven Nacamulli
Community Consortium
Alex Ingersoll and David Stein

Fund for the House in Order Manual

David Gary, in appreciation of Jonathan Funk

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Arlene Lande, in memory of Stewart Surks.
Hal Podgur, in memory of Mollie Podgur and Marge Lewis.
Colette Patt, in memory of Yvonne Patt.
Matt Wright
Sharyn Saslafsky, in memory of Allen Harris.
Larry Wexler, in memory of Robert Siegel.
Alex Ingersoll and David Stein, in honor of Robin Leonard's being accepted to the Wexner Heritage Foundation's Lay Leadership Seminar.
Rob Tat, in memory of Bebe Leben.
Arnie Jackson, to commemorate the yahrzeit of Phyllis Litman.
Douglas O. Robson, in memory of Stephen Jay Mistler.
Martin Sinkoff and David Stocks, in memory of Stephen Jay Mistler.
Emily Harrison, in memory of Stephen Jay Mistler.
Mark Bowers, in memory of Bill Gile.

Prayerbook Fund

Larry Wexler, in loving appreciation of Batya Kalis.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Henry Carrey, in memory of David Carrey, Fannie Post and Neil Stansky.
David Gary, in memory of Allen Harris.
Robert and Lisbeth Hector, in honor of Paul Cohen.
Jeff Vogel, Sarah Vogel and Beryl Brownstein, in memory of Lee Vogel.
Martin Spector, in memory of Rodger Morales.

Pledges and Gifts to Ma'ayan 96

The following members and friends supported Ma'ayan 96 between February 9 and March 8. To date, we have raised \$12,675 towards our goal of \$18,000!

Lev Zahav (Heart of Gold) (\$1,000+)

Walter Leiss

Zahav (Gold) (\$500-\$999)

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein

Kesef (Silver) (\$250-\$499)

Daniel Chesir

Arad (Bronze) (\$100-\$249)

Claire Rappoport
Martin Sinkoff and David Stocks

Ma'ayanot (All Other Gifts)

Emily Harrison
Nina Raff and Annie Winters
Douglas Robson

New Candlesticks

Special thanks to Allan Berenstein, for the much needed donation of a second pair of silver candlesticks, which originally belonged to our member Bill Shlichter. Allan has given them to CSZ for use at Shabbat services and on other occasions.



I have enjoyed working with CSZ members in successfully buying and selling real estate.

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Rabbi

Continued from page 1

that they behaved like the grains or that people might confuse them with the forbidden food. As a Reform Jew of Ashkenazi background, I could decide that I will adopt Sephardic practice and only concern myself with the Talmud's five species of grain; but if I served corn on the cob at my table, I would feel as if I were violating a strong tradition and it wouldn't taste good! In this case, the tradition carries its own weight for me, even if the origin of this practice is not persuasive. It is not necessary to replace everything in the kitchen; foods which obviously have no connection to chametz need not be replaced. However, if Passover kashrut is important to you, do read ingredient labels carefully and remember that drinks made from fermented grain, e.g. rye, scotch, beer and the like, are considered chametz.

Why get it out of the house? The prohibition on chametz extends to having it in your possession or even owning any during Passover. Previous generations (and some of us) painstakingly clean the kitchen and house of all traces of chametz, use special Passover dishes and the like. Short of this, you may observe Passover by removing all chametz products from the kitchen. In my house, in the past, we have had a section of the freezer labeled "Do not open until after Passover!" and moved the non-Passover foods to a special place for the duration of the festival. Passover is a time for tzedakah; unopened products can be given to the Food Bank. You may observe the traditional practice of selling your chametz to a neighbor; explain the customs of the holiday and sell your chametz in exchange for a donation to the Food Bank or another tzedakah. No matter how strict your observance of the halachah, if you are removing chametz from your home then you can have a chametz search. Small amounts of chametz (croutons work well) are discreetly hidden around the kitchen (or house) and then searched for by candlelight and destroyed (traditionally, by burning). Any traditional haggadah has instructions on this custom; if you would like to receive a brief set of instructions, call the CSZ office.

What about restaurants? It can be hard to eat in restaurants during Passover; salad bars at lunch are a good choice. Here again, setting your level of

observance is a personal decision; the challenge of observing the holiday can be a route to deepening our Jewish identity and reflecting on the meaning of the festival. Personally, to the extent possible, I avoid restaurants during Pesach; I do make exceptions for restaurants which have a special Pesach menu.

What is the meaning of the prohibition of chametz? The rabbis see the detailed, candlelight searching out and exclusion of chametz as a metaphor for the soul-searching task of removing yetzer ha-ra, the inner destructive impulse from our psyches. We are not asked to be perfect or deny the presence of destructive or non-life-affirming urges and desires within; the search for chametz, say the commentators, symbolizes our efforts to put them aside and live in whole/healed time for a week. As spring unfolds, Passover invites us to reexamine everything we carry with us and to ask what keeps us enslaved and what will enable us to move towards freedom.

Passover is the climax of the Jewish calendar year. While Rosh Hashanah is the new year, Passover falls during the month of Nisan, which is the first of months. The matzah of course is the symbol of the Exodus, the token of our liberation; we still eat matzah, and avoid chametz, to extend our awareness of the

first rush of excitement at our freedom. The matzah symbolizes the poverty of our enslavement; savoring our liberation, we recall through the week of Passover the depth of our people's pain. Our attention to the history and spirit of the historical enslavement and liberation turns us towards our ultimate liberation from all Pharaohs and every oppression.

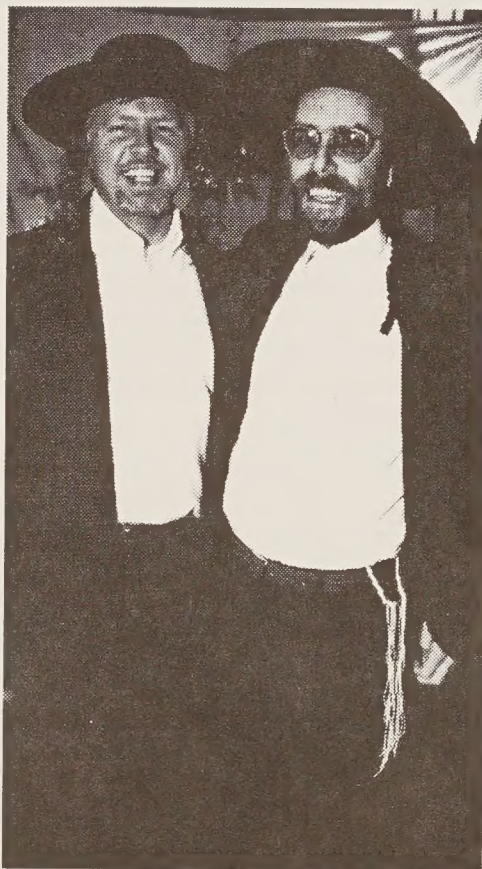
How can I learn more? If you would like to learn more about the holiday and about deeper meanings for its customs, I strongly recommend Michael Strassfeld's book *The Jewish Holidays: A Guide and Commentary* [Harper and Row, 1985]. The standard English reference for liberal halachic practice is the Conservative movement's *A Guide to Jewish Religious Practice* by Isaac Klein [JTS, 1979].

Social Action Quick Response Teams

CSZ's Social Action Committee is planning a series of events and ways for our voices to be heard. The Committee is compiling a list of concerned members' phone and fax numbers and e-mail addresses to form a Quick Response Team. Those on the team will be alerted to issues of concern to our community and be given suggestions about appropriate ways to respond. If you are interested in becoming a part of the team, please send your phone number (plus fax number and e-mail address if you have them) to Eloise Magenheimer, Chair of the Committee, at the CSZ office. You should also include issues of particular concern to you.

Please join us, too, as we march in the Fight the Right demonstration on April 14. Organized by the National Organization for Women (NOW), the 1.7-mile march will kick off at Bay and Laguna Streets at 1 pm, followed by a rally at Crissy Field beginning at 2 pm. The rally platform calls for a spectrum of civil rights including lesbian/gay/bisexual rights, women's rights and immigrant rights. Watch the Shabbat announcement sheets for details of our contingent's meeting place.

Marchers will be travelling here from all over the country and will need places to sleep. If you are interested in hosting marchers, please call Laura Fox (436-9390).



Purim party photo by Michael Bettinger.

Jerusalem 3000 Events

The San Francisco Jewish Community will sponsor three events in May and a community festival in June to mark the trimillennium anniversary of Jerusalem.

Yehudit Ravitz in Concert will perform at 7 pm Sunday, May 5, in the Masonic Auditorium. Ravitz is Israel's top rock/pop star and this is her only Northern California appearance. Tickets are available through campus Hillels and Bass ticket centers. This event is co-sponsored by the Israel Project.

A Gala Reception and Concert featuring an elegant evening of chamber music and a supper buffet (at \$100/person) will be held at the Asian Art Museum at 5:30 pm Monday, May 13.

On Sunday, May 19, from 1 to 5 pm in McLaren Auditorium at the University of San Francisco, a keynote address by Dr. Thomas Idinopulous, Miami University of Ohio, with a panel of Jewish, Christian and Muslim respondents will constitute the third event. It is co-sponsored by the Northern California Board of Rabbis.

A free festival celebration Jerusalem in the Gardens / A Festival in Celebration of Jerusalem 3000 and Israel Independence Day, will be at Yerba Buena Gardens on Sunday, June 9, from 12 noon to 5 pm. The celebration is co-sponsored by the Bureau of Jewish Education and the City of San Francisco.

Members' Yahrzeits

- 2 Ron Gertz
- 4 Abraham Cohen
- 6 Dennis Mitchell
- 21 Robert Serman
- 23 Michael Randall

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Pride Weekend is Rapidly Approaching

The theme of the June 30 Pride Parade and Celebration is "Equality and Justice For All." What do we have to say about that? Who wants to say it? How? CSZ needs to form a Pride Weekend Committee to make these important decisions. Call the office to express interest SOON, as the parade application deadline is the first week of May.

Onegs

These generous people sponsored onegs during the month of March:

- 1 Paul Cohen, in memory of his father, Joseph M. Cohen.
- 15 Jerry Rosenstein, in memory of his family.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to:

Amy Scharf and Kirsten Gustavson, on the loss of their friend, Juliette Singer.

The memory of the righteous is for a blessing.

Classifieds

PROVINCETOWN, CAPE COD, JUNE 21-29. Share a fabulous water view apartment. Beach access. Own room for 1 or 2, kitchen. Rob 861-2350.

Yom HaShoah Memorial

In honor of Holocaust Memorial Day, Temple Emanu-El will be hosting a community-wide commemoration on Monday, April 15 at 7:30 pm. Temple Emanu-El is located at 2 Lake Street in San Francisco. Call for more information (751-2535).



Purim party photo by Michael Bettinger.

Elat Chayyim

Elat Chayyim, A Center for Healing and Renewal in Accord, NY, will have a Lesbian and Gay Pride Retreat May 31 to June 2. The center is sponsored by ALEPH: the Alliance for Jewish Renewal.

Details of the event and the entire 1996 calendar for ALEPH are available in the CSZ office.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Salem Buchholz

Gabriel Vega

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL CHEVRA KADISHA

San Francisco ... 1501 Divisadero Street at Geary
(415) 921-3636

East Bay ... 3415 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette
(510) 284-3945

Gene B. Kaufman, Executive Director

Naches

To **Robin Leonard**, on her acceptance into the Lay Leadership Seminar of the Wexner Heritage Foundation.

To **Carolyn Pines**, on her new position as Executive Director of Congregation Beth Shalom.

To **Stephanie Hannaford**, on her new position as Director of Rehabilitation at the Westgate Convalescent Center in San Jose.

To **Maxine Epstein and Geraldine Barr**, on celebrating their tenth anniversary.

To **Dyan Dreisbach and Joyce Newstat**, on celebrating their fifth anniversary.

To **Adam and Ethan Inlander**, sons of Richard Inlander, on their admissions to graduate schools.

To **Batya Kalis and Marion Trentman**, on the birth of their great-great-nephew Gabriel Henry Winick-Pinkus.

To **Alice Prussin and Smokey Cormier**, on the arrival of their new daughter Rina.

To **Allyce Kimerling**, on her new position with the State Division of Labor Standards Enforcement in Fresno. We'll miss you!

To **Marilyn O'Keeffe**, on her entrance into the Covenant.

To **Theodora Mauro**, on her entrance into the Covenant.



Purim party photo by Michael Bettinger.

Oneg Schedule

As described in the October, 1995 *Forward*, every CSZ member who lives in the immediate Bay Area has been assigned to volunteer at **one** oneg each year. The schedule for the next two months is below. (If you have asked the synagogue not to print your name in the newsletter, your name will not appear on the schedule; however, you are still assigned for the week where your name falls alphabetically.) You'll also be called or sent a postcard reminding you that your week is coming up. Volunteering means:

- set up the oneg (come at 7:30 and put up hot water, pour juice/wine, set out food)
- clean up the oneg (put away food/drinks, collect plates, wash dishes, wipe off tables)

April 5

L. Goodman & E. Lewin
S. Goodman
L. Gordon
R. Gordon
J. Graeven
J. Green
T. Green
A. Greenberg & A. Wellins

April 12

M. Grossman & A. Naples
N. Grungras
K. Gustavson & A. Scharf
S. Haber
J. Hample
S. Hannaford
A. Harris
N. Hart
E. Haskell & D. Ron

April 19

S. & T. Hauptman
D. Hawk & A. Palash
R. Heilbrunn
J. Heiman & M. Moon
H. Heller
F. Hertz
M. Hochfelder

April 26

D. Hoffmann
D. Honigstein
S. Horowitz
S. Howard
M. Hulton
D. Hyman

May 3

A. Ingersoll & D. Stein
R. Inlander & B. Schalit
D. Israels

- bring food (cookies, cake, kugel, cut vegetables, fruit or whatever you want, as long as it's vegetarian).

Please call the oneg chair, Allan Gianini (255-8117), a week in advance to confirm what you want to do. We'll provide instructions for people setting up and cleaning up.

Participation each week is on a first-come, first-served basis, with the primary goal being getting enough people to set up and clean up. If you have circumstances which make it impossible for you to ever help with an oneg, please let Allan know.

If you have volunteered at an oneg since August 4, 1995, you have fulfilled your 1995-96 oneg obligation and can ignore your name when it appears.

A. Jackson
D. Jacobs- Levine & J. Levine
R. Jacobson
T. Johnson

May 10

N. Kaiser & N. Klimist
B. Kalis & M. Trentman
G. Kassner & S. Spiro
N. Kates
E. Katz
L. Katz
L. Katz
Robert Katz

May 17

Rose Katz
M. Kay
I. Keller
S. Kern
A. Kimerling & R. Rotolo
S. King
J. Klain
S. Koshover

May 24

I. Kuluk
D. Lahn & M. Schroeder
E. Landsberg
S. Larson
J. Lefkowitz & S. Shuster
W. Leiss
R. Leonard
M. Levin

May 31

M. Levine
S. Levine & L. Schickler
E. Levy & J. Nichols
R. Lezell
S. Liberman & M. Livingston
B. Lieberman



Birthdays

- 1 Barney Ugarte
- 3 Nathan Birnbaum
- 3 Judith Green
- 4 Linda Michels
- 5 Heather Fox
- 7 Gordon Osser
- 7 Judy Macks
- 12 Devra Felder Noily
- 12 Kathy Simon
- 12 Shira Adler
- 13 Richard Goldwasser
- 14 Lyssa Friedman
- 14 Amy Clark
- 15 Susan Stahl
- 15 Nancy Sadlier
- 16 Peter Barnes
- 16 Jeanette Nichols
- 16 Robert Gordon
- 17 Keirel Ludden-Moses
- 17 Diana Buchbinder
- 19 Martin Spector
- 19 Sandy Meyers
- 19 Alita Rosenfeld
- 20 Leonard Brill
- 22 Barak Gale
- 22 Carrie Gray Costello
- 23 Eli Weinstein
- 23 Sara Haber
- 23 Leslie Halpern
- 24 Samuel Lowinger
- 24 Susan Fraimow-Wong
- 25 Brian Ellis
- 26 Andre Fournier
- 26 Sarah Comerchero
- 28 Jonah Kudler-Flam
- 28 Frances Rotolo
- 29 Shirley Liberman
- 30 Judith Klain
- 30 Orren Perlman
- 30 Lynn Eden
- 30 Henry Mach



We Have E-Mail

The CSZ office now has an e-mail address:
ShaarZahav@aol.com

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, David Stein (863-4769 or david.stein@internetmci.com)
Administrative Vice President,
 Diana Buchbinder
Program Vice President, Judith Cohen
Treasurer, Michael Zimmerman
Recorder, Dona Rabinowitz

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Michael Chertok
 Jonathan Comisar
 Lyssa Friedman
 David Gellman
 Lisa Katz
 Ed Lopatin
 Carolyn Pines
 Lane Schickler
 Susan Tubbesing

CSZ Staff:

Office Manager, Lea Salem
Kadimah Principal, Phyllis Mintzer
Rabbi Kahn's Asst., Amy Clark
Program Coord., Dana Katz

Committee Chairs:

Archives, open
ARZA contact, Ron Lezell
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber
Brotherhood, Stephan Howard
Building, Mark Klaiman
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard and Rose Katz
Dues, Susan Gelmis and Sara Haber
Education, Claire Rappoport
Endowment Fund, Richard Inlander
Environmental Action, Barak Gale and Brian Besser

Finance, Michael Zimmerman
Fine Arts, Alice Prussin
Fundraising, open
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
Infant-Toddler Chavurah, open
Leadership Development, Irene Ogus
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Sara Haber and Larry Wexler
Newsletter, by committee
Oneg, Allan Giannini
Past Presidents Council, Merry Luskin
Personnel, Diana Buchbinder
Pre-school Chavurah, Nancy Meyer
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslasky
Religious School, Ron Lezell and Martha Rosett
Ritual, Ora Prochovnick
Social Action, Eloise Magenheim
Volunteer Coordinator, Nathan Robinson
Women's Chavurah, open

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Office Hours: Monday–Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have the rabbi or a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Robin Leonard, liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Lane Schickler, liaison).

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am—check calendar for each month. Morning Minyan meets Mondays at 8:30 am.

Gift Shop Hours: Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm.

Library Hours: Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

1 Monday 12 Nisan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 am, Morning Minyan 6 pm, Healing service 7:45 pm, Haggadah Class, Part II 	8 Monday 19 Nisan Pesach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 am, Morning Minyan 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting 	15 Monday 26 Nisan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 am, Morning Minyan 6 pm, Healing service 7 pm, Newsletter layout 	23 Tuesday 4 Iyyar
2 Tuesday 13 Nisan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, Dues Committee 	9 Tuesday 20 Nisan Pesach	16 Tuesday 27 Nisan Yom HaShoah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Membership Committee meeting 	24 Wednesday 5 Iyyar Yom Ha'atzma'ut
3 Wednesday 14 Nisan Pesach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Seder begins at sunset 	10 Wednesday 21 Nisan Pesach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Newsletter editing 	17 Wednesday 28 Nisan	25 Thursday 6 Iyyar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee meeting 7 pm, Newsletter distribution
4 Thursday 15 Nisan Pesach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, Congregational Seder led by Rabbi Kahn, Brian Besser and Eileen Levy, Fort Mason Officers' Club 	11 Thursday 22 Nisan Pesach	18 Thursday 29 Nisan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting 	26 Friday 7 Iyyar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Tot Shabbat 8:15 pm, Shabbat service: Tova Green, Ora Prochovnick and Aaron Buchbinder
5 Friday 16 Nisan Pesach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 pm, Early Kabbalat Shabbat 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service: Rabbi Kahn and Brian Besser 	12 Friday 23 Nisan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30 pm, Niggun service 8:15 pm, Shabbat service: Mike Rankin 	19 Friday 30 Nisan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 pm, CSZ Women's Shabbat dinner 8:15 pm, Women's Shabbat service: Tova Green, Dev Noily and Alice Prussin 8:15 pm, East Bay service 	27 Saturday 8 Iyyar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Kadimah
6 Saturday 17 Nisan Pesach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Kadimah (Pesach recess) 4 pm, Yizkor service 	13 Saturday 24 Nisan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Kadimah 10 am, Shabbat service, Bat Mitzvah of Danielle Billinkoff: Eileen Levy, Rose Katz, Rabbi Kahn 	20 Saturday 1 Iyyar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 am, Kadimah 3 pm, Rabbi's support group 	28 Sunday 9 Iyyar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 am, Kaiser brunch
7 Sunday 18 Nisan Pesach	14 Sunday 25 Nisan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pm, Fight the Right demonstration 4 pm, New member potluck, community room at 345 Church St., home of David Stein and Alex Ingersoll 	21 Sunday 2 Iyyar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healing Center Conference 	29 Monday 10 Iyyar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 am, Morning Minyan
		22 Monday 3 Iyyar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Israel Trip leaves 8:30 am, Morning Minyan 	30 Tuesday 11 Iyyar

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

MAY FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, APRIL 1

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@aol.com). To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, APRIL 8

Please submit articles both on 3½-inch disk and hard copy on paper *double spaced*. Write "Attn. Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. No deadline extensions without advance permission from the editorial coordinator (821-3855) or kalis@out.org.internet.

East Bay Services

4/19	Ed Tanovitz, 1612 E. 38th St., Oakland (510/482-4825)
5/17	Marc Weisman, 6122 Lawton St., Oakland (510/658-1684)
6/21	Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines, 2821 55th St., Oakland (510/532-9661)

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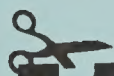
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli

San Francisco, California

8PM Saturday, March 16, 1996

Sometimes We Need A Story More Than Food celebrates the healing power of storytelling and explores the important place it holds in keeping cultures alive. Weaving together traditional and autobiographical stories, Fischer evokes the worlds of 19th century Chasidism, Talmudic sages and 13th century Sufi mystics, along with the freeways of Los Angeles, the remnants of Prague's Jewish quarter and the sights and smells of his grandmother's delicatessen in New York.

For more information, please call
the synagogue office (415) 861-6932 or Nathan Robinson (415) 703-0747.



Don't miss your chance! Reserve your tickets now by completing and mailing the form below.

Attn: Dana Katz (415) 861-6932
CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, CA 94114

Please reserve the following tickets for me:

Number of Adult Tickets @ \$5. amount \$

Number of Children under 13 (free) amount \$

My check for \$ is enclosed.

Name:

Phone Number:

(We will hold your tickets for you at the door.)

Seder Reservation Form

Thursday, April 4, 1996

Fort Mason Officers' Club

Doors open at 5:45 pm • Seder promptly at 6:30 pm

NAME	PHONE	<input type="checkbox"/> MEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/> NON-MEMBER
ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP

Please reserve the following number of places for:

_____ MEMBERS @ \$23 _____ NON-MEMBERS @ \$28 _____ CHILDREN @ \$12

Indicate your choice of meal:

_____ CHICKEN _____ VEGETARIAN

Would you like to be seated at a table of single people? ☐ YES ☐ NO

All seats will be reserved at preassigned tables of 14. You may reserve a full or half table by: 1) indicating names on reverse of this form; or 2) by paying in advance for all tickets. Unless members' names are indicated, all tickets are \$28 each. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SATISFY REQUESTS BUT CANNOT BE GUARANTEED UNLESS AN ENTIRE TABLE IS RESERVED.

Our synagogue subsidizes the cost of Seder for children and those unable to afford the whole cost. Can you help with this?

I WISH TO DONATE \$_____ TOWARD SUBSIDIES.

I/WE WISH TO REQUEST A SUBSIDY \$_____

Any unused funds will be donated to Mazon, the Jewish Response to Hunger.

Information will be available at the Seder regarding the annual Passover Me'ot Chittim Appeal which collects funds to be distributed to various community organizations to help feed the hungry.

Signing for the hearing impaired may be requested when reservations are made.

DEADLINE: ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY, MARCH 25.

My check is enclosed for a total of \$_____

MAIL TO: CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV SEDER
 220 DANVERS STREET
 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94114

For further information, contact the office or Shirley Liberman (707/829-8876).

NOTE: Fort Mason Officers' Club is located at the very foot of Franklin Street across Bay Street in the park. It is NOT across from Marina Safeway.

